

## **Appendix C**

### **Citizen Trade Policy Commission Meeting Summaries**

# **Citizen Trade Policy Commission**

## **Wednesday, October 6, 2004**

### **Meeting Summary**

**Members present:** Sen. Stephen Stanley (co-chair), Rep. John Patrick (co-chair), Sen. Margaret Rotundo, Rep. Roderick Carr, Rep. Deborah Hutton, Paul Chartrand, Matt Schlobohm, Paul Volckhausen, James Wilfong, Carla Dickstein, Dr. Robert Weiss, Bjorn Claeson, Mark Haggerty, Cynthia Phinney, Elizabeth Wyman, Jim Dusch, Barbara Van Burgel, Adam Fisher, Mary Ellen Johnston, Richard Coyle

**Members absent:** Sen. Richard Kneeland

**Staff present:** Curtis Bentley, Legislative Analyst and Nicole Dube, Legislative Analyst

#### **I. Introductions**

Sen. Stanley and Rep. Patrick convened the Commission meeting and asked Commission members to introduce themselves and make introductory remarks.

#### **II. Overview of Current Issues**

The task force heard presentations from four members regarding the impact of international trade agreements on states.

**James Wilfong**, Former Assistant Administrator for International Trade, SBA briefed the commission on international trade issues affecting the small business community. Small medium enterprises (SMEs) currently represent approximately 96% of exporters in the United States. Mr. Wilfong noted that despite their large numbers, SMEs lack representation within the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) and suggested the need to create an assistant USTR position as well as a ministry position within the World Trade Organization for small businesses. Given Maine's unique interests as a small rural state, Mr. Wilfong stressed the importance of building alliances with other states and educating the legislature, USTR and Maine's congressional delegation on these interests.

**Cynthia Phinney**, Organizer, IBEW 1837, briefed the Commission on the impact of international trade agreements on organized labor. There has been an increase in the migration of jobs to foreign countries where wages and living standards are lower, creating job losses and impacting the ability of union workers to negotiate effectively. Ms. Phinney noted that telephone centers are one of the fastest growing sectors in Maine and also one of the most threatened by outsourcing. She also emphasized that organized labor is just one of many factors effected by international trade agreements, noting the impact of Australia's trade agreement on its ability to provide accessible and affordable healthcare.

**Matt Schlobohn**, Director, Maine Fair Trade Campaign, briefed the commission on federalism and democracy issues raised by international trade agreements. The scope of current trade agreements and entities, such as WTO, NAFTA, and GATS has expanded beyond trade, to include public services, agriculture, quotas, investments, procurement, etc. NAFTA, which was enacted in 1994, has strong enforcement mechanisms with dispute resolution commissions that preempt our court system. State laws can conflict with NAFTA regulations, impacting the ability of states to self-regulate and self-govern. Mr. Schlobohn noted that NAFTA investment rules allow foreign investors to sue national governments, which is often used by large companies as a threat against states. He also provided three case studies to highlight these state/global conflicts that occur.

**Bjorn Claeson**, Director, PICA/Clean Clothes Campaign, briefed the commission on the impact of international trade agreements on government procurement rules. Mr. Claeson noted that international procurement rules are developed through a closed process that only allows international corporations with access to trade negotiations to participate. In September 2003, the USTR contacted Governor Baldacci and requested access to Maine's procurement markets in trade agreements currently under negotiation. In December 2003, Governor Baldacci agreed without public review or evaluation. However, due to requests by the Maine Fair Trade Campaign and other interested groups, Governor Baldacci withdrew Maine's authorization in May 2004. Mr. Claeson noted the need for future requests to be reviewed on an individual basis.

### **III. Scoping Out Key Policy Issues and Developing a Work Plan -- Commission Discussion**

Commission members discussed their perspectives on the purpose, key policy issues and expected outcomes of the study. The task force agreed on the following next steps"

- The commission agreed to hold its second meeting during the first two weeks in November, on a date TBD by staff based on member availability.
- The commission agreed to invite outside experts to its second meeting to provide an orientation/background on international trade agreements and governance and sector issues. The commission also agreed to develop a comprehensive workplan at the second meeting.
- Potential speakers include representatives from the Forum on Trade and Democracy, UMaine, Maine International Trade Center, Small Business Exporters Association.
- Staff will copy and distribute background materials requested by Commission members.

### **IV. Adjournment**

The Commission meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

# **Citizen Trade Policy Commission**

## **Tuesday, November 9, 2004**

### **Meeting Summary**

**Members present:** Sen. Stephen Stanley (co-chair), Rep. John Patrick (co-chair), Sen. Margaret Rotundo, Sen. Richard Kneeland, Rep. Roderick Carr, Rep. Deborah Hutton, , Matt Schlobohm, Paul Volckhausen, James Wilfong, Dr. Robert Weiss, Bjorn Claeson, Mark Haggerty, Cynthia Phinney, Elizabeth Wyman, Mary Ellen Johnston, Vanessa Santarelli

**Members absent:** Carla Dickstein, Barbara Van Burgel, Richard Coyle, Jim Dusch, Paul Chartrand

**Staff present:** Curtis Bentley, Legislative Analyst and Nicole Dube, Legislative Analyst

#### **I. Introductions**

Rep. Patrick convened the Commission meeting and asked Commission members to introduce themselves and make introductory remarks.

#### **II. Forum on Trade and Democracy Presentation**

Director, Peter Riggs and Jennifer Gerbasi from the Forum on Democracy on Trade (FTD) provided the commission an orientation/background on international trade agreements and governance and sector issues. The Forum on Trade and Democracy, a non-profit organization affiliated with the Georgetown School of Law, provides legal and technical assistance and networking support to states working on trade issues. They noted that Maine's Citizen Trade Policy Commission is the first state commission in the country charged with local democracy and oversight. The presentation provided the following information:

##### **International Trading System**

FTD staff first provided commission members with an overview of the international trading system, including background information on international agreements (World Trade Organization), regional agreements (NAFTA, CAFTA, FTAA) and bilateral agreements (US-Australia, US-Singapore, US-Chile). New developments in trade agreements, upcoming negotiations, and key rules were also discussed.

##### **Dispute Resolution**

WTO and NAFTA dispute resolution is handled by arbitration tribunals, whose authority supercedes federal law. FTD staff noted that these arbitration tribunals have the authority to punish the United States through retaliatory trade sanctions and NAFTA's investment chapter (Chapter 11) can award unlimited monetary damages for any local government action found to be in violation of international trade agreements.

##### **Case Studies**

FTD staff provided the commission with case studies focused on six policy areas – prescription drugs (Australia FTA, GATS), agriculture (WTO), energy, water resources (GATT, NAFTA), government procurement (WTO) and gambling (GATS).

##### **State Oversight of International Trade**

The commission discussed strategies to improve state oversight of trade policies. FTD staff suggested focusing on a few key areas of concern, working with the Congressional delegation, national associations, posing questions for the USTR, participating in multi-state working groups, and convening hearings on state oversight of international trade. The group also discussed other state approaches, including

California, which has a Senate Select Committee, Washington, which has a Joint Legislative Oversight Committee, and Idaho, which has oversight from an existing standing committee on energy.

### **III. Scoping Out Key Policy Issues and Developing a Work Plan – Commission Discussion**

Commission members discussed their perspectives on the key policy issues and workplan for the Commission. Recognizing the scope of trade policy issues impacting Maine is beyond the commission's capacity, commission members decided that it would be beneficial to choose policy areas of concern on which to initially focus their work. The commission voted to form the following three subcommittees:

1. Natural Resources/Environment - Rep. Carr, Mark Haggerty, Paul Volckhausen, Bjorn Claeson, Jim Dusch, Jim Wilfong, and Mary Ellen Johnston
2. Healthcare - Rep. Patrick, Sen. Rotundo, Dr. Robert Weiss, Liz Wyman, Matt Schlobohm, and Barbara Van BURGEL
3. Labor/Economic Development. Rep. Hutton, Cynthia Phinney, Peter Connell, Vanessa Santarelli, Richard Coyle, Carla Dickstein, and Paul Chartrand

All three subcommittees will focus on four main tasks: Functional Roles in Maine, Tracking/Negotiations, Future Legislation, and Public Education. In addition, the commission agreed on the following next steps"

- The commission agreed to hold its third meeting on Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM. The full commission will convene in the morning and subcommittees will meet in the afternoon.
- Subcommittees will develop individual workplans and will report back to the full commission no later than January 15<sup>th</sup>.
- The commission agreed to consider introducing legislation this legislative session that would require the Maine's state point of contact (SPOC) to the USTR to report to the Commission and the legislature.
- The commission requested additional information from staff regarding the Governor's Canadian Advisory Committee.
- The commission directed staff to draft introductory letters to the Maine Congressional Delegation, the USTR, and IGPAC.
- The commission agreed to hold a public hearing on Thursday, January 27<sup>th</sup> from 7-9 PM in Bangor. Rep. Carr agreed to make initial contact with the Husson College Business Center to check availability.

### **IV. Adjournment**

The Commission meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

# **Citizen Trade Policy Commission**

**Tuesday, December 16, 2004**

State House, Room 127, Augusta

## **Meeting Summary**

**Members present:** Sen. Margaret Rotundo (co-chair), Rep. John Patrick (co-chair), Sen. Bruce Bryant, Rep. Roderick Carr, Rep. Deborah Hutton, Matt Schlobohm, Paul Volckhausen, James Wilfong, Dr. Robert Weiss, Bjorn Claeson, Cynthia Phinney, Elizabeth Wyman, Mary Ellen Johnston, Vanessa Santarelli, Paul Chartrand, Richard Coyle, Carla Dickstein

**Members absent:** Barbara Van Burgel, Jim Dusch, Mark Haggerty

**Staff present:** Curtis Bentley, Legislative Analyst and Nicole Dube, Legislative Analyst

### **I. Introductions**

Sen. Rotundo convened the Commission meeting and asked Commission members to introduce themselves and make introductory remarks.

### **II. Review of letters to Maine's congressional delegation**

Commission members reviewed a draft letter prepared by staff to Maine's congressional delegation introducing the Commission and expressing a desire to work cooperatively with them to address Maine's needs relating to existing and developing international trade agreements. The Commission approved the draft letter with the addition of a clarifying reference to officers of the State, a list of Commission members and requested that a copy of the letter be sent to Robert Zollick at the Offices of the United States Trade Representative.

**III. Public Hearing in Bangor** The Commission discussed the upcoming public hearing on February 3, 2005, at the Husson Business College from 7-9 PM in Bangor. The Commission determined that the purpose of the public hearing would be to inform the public about the Commission and its goals and to receive input to guide the Commission's work especially on the upcoming negotiations on CAFTA.

**IV. Press release and letters to the editor** The Commission asked staff to put together a press release providing notice of the Bangor meeting and highlighting the work of the Commission. Commission members suggested that the chairs and other members write letters to the editor to publicize the Bangor public meeting and the work of the Commission.

**V. Central American Free Trade Agreement** The Commission directed staff to contact the Forum on Democracy to arrange a presentation on the Central American Free Trade Agreement. Commission members agreed to generate a list of concerns about CAFTA and send them to the USTR and Maine's congressional delegation.



**VI. Draft Legislation** In response to the draft legislation circulated in preparation for this meeting, Richard Coyle, Executive Director of the Maine International Trade Center and Commission member, briefed the Commission on the Center and how the Commission and the Center may work together on international trade agreements.

Mr. Coyle reviewed letters from the Board of the Maine International Trade Center and Commissioner Jack Cashman of the Department of Economic and Community Development, which were addressed to the Citizen Trade Policy Commission. Mr. Coyle indicated that legislation of any kind was premature at this juncture because the work of the Commission is still in its early stages.

Senator Bryant requested that Richard Coyle provide information about requests received by the Center from people who had experienced problems involving trade agreements. Representative Hutton asked Mr. Coyle to provide information on who are the single points of contact for each state with the United States Trade Representative. Commission members agreed to focus any draft legislation on the democracy side of free trade, and not just on the business side or the export/import aspect of free trade, which is the primary focus of the Center. The Commission members agreed to put in a legislative place holder for any draft legislation for the 122nd legislature. The Committee agreed to form another subcommittee to work on draft legislation for the Commission's next meeting. Jim Dusch agreed to be point person for this subcommittee.

**VI. Commission's work plan and sub-committees** Senator Rotundo indicated that most work of the Commission would be done in subcommittees. Commission members agreed that subcommittees would meet to conduct their business after the regular meetings of the Commission and after public hearings, when possible. The commission then broke out into the three subcommittees to review work plans and provide a framework for the direction of the Commission. The full Commission then reconvened and each subcommittee briefed the Commission on its plans.

## **VII. Adjournment**

The Commission meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.

# **Citizen Trade Policy Commission**

**Friday, January 21, 2005**

State House, Room 127, Augusta

## **Meeting Summary**

**Members present:** Sen. Margaret Rotundo (co-chair), Sen. Kevin Raye, Sen. Bruce Bryant, Rep. John Patrick (co-chair), Rep. Roderick Carr, Dr. Robert Wiess, Liz Wyman, Vanessa Santarelli, Mary Ellen Johnston, Peter Connell, Paul Volckhausen, Jim Dusch, Mark Haggerty, Bjorn Claeson, Matt Schlobohm, Richard Coyle, Carla Dickstein, James Wilfong

**Members absent:** Absent: Rep. Deborah Hutton, Cynthia Phinney, Barbara Van BURGEL

**Staff present:** Curtis Bentley, Legislative Analyst and Nicole Dube, Legislative Analyst

### **I. Introductions**

Sen. Rotundo convened the Commission meeting and asked Commission members to introduce themselves and make introductory remarks. Paul Volckhausen informed the Commission that he will be going to El Salvador regarding organic farmers and trade issues and will report back to the Commission at its next meeting. He also requested the Commission send an introductory letter with him to share with interested parties in El Salvador.

### **II. Presentation on CAFTA**

William Warren and Sylvia Tonova from the Forum on Democracy and Trade briefed the Commission on CAFTA and addressed other areas of international trade agreements. William Warren provided handouts outlining the presentation.

### **III. Commission Work Session**

#### **A. Information Requests from Last Meeting**

In response to information requests from the Commission at its December 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, Richard Coyle provided the Commission with the following: written examples of retaliatory tariffs imposed by the European Union, information about requests received by the Center from people who had experienced problems involving trade agreements and information on single points of contact for the United States Trade Representative in each state.

#### **B. Scheduling Future Commission Meetings**

The Commission discussed scheduling future Commission meetings and agreed to meet on the last Friday of each month at 9:00 AM. The Commission will conduct its business in the mornings and subcommittees will convene in the afternoon. The Commission agreed to request the USTR to brief the Commission at a future meeting and directed



subcommittees to prepare questions to be sent to the USTR prior to the briefing. The Commission agreed to send the USTR its questions for a written response even if the USTR is unable to attend a Commission meeting. The Commission also agreed to invite members or representatives from Maine's Congressional Delegation to brief the Commission on trade issues and to discuss ways to effectively work together.

#### C. February 3<sup>rd</sup> Public Hearing in Bangor

The Commission discussed the structure of the February 3<sup>rd</sup> public hearing and agreed that it should be conducted according to the same protocol as legislative public hearings. The Commission directed staff to distribute the press release to all municipalities and development districts. The Commission also directed staff to begin to compile a more extensive list of interested parties.

#### D. Update from the Legislation Subcommittee

The Legislation Subcommittee briefed the Commission on its recent work. Before drafting possible legislation, the subcommittee felt it was necessary to first develop overall goals and strategies to determine if legislation was necessary and/or appropriate at this time. The subcommittee asked the Commission to further consider these proposed goals and strategies before introducing legislation and noted that the authorizing legislation allows the Commission to introduce legislation at any time.

Bjourn Claeson also briefed the Commission on his recent conversation with Kay Wilkie, Chair of the USTR's Intergovernmental Policy Advisory Committee (IGPAC) and provided a list of IGPAC members.

### VI. Sub-committee Work Sessions

The Commission broke into its three subcommittees (healthcare, environment/natural resources and labor/economic development) to continue to develop and implement work plans and generate CAFTA questions for a Commission letter to the USTR. The full Commission then reconvened and each subcommittee briefed the Commission on its work.

### VII. Next Meeting

The Commission agreed to hold its next meeting on Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM. Richard Coyle agreed to work with Sen. Raye to determine the availability of the USTR and staff from Maine's congressional delegation to brief the Commission.

### V. Adjournment

The Commission adjourned at 4:00 pm.

# **Citizen Trade Policy Commission**

**Friday, February 25, 2005**

State House, Room 126, Augusta

## **Meeting Summary**

**Members present:** Sen. Margaret Rotundo (co-chair), Rep. John Patrick (co-chair), Sen. Bruce Bryant, Rep. Roderick Carr, Rep. Deborah Hutton, Matt Schlobohm, Paul Volckhausen, James Wilfong, Dr. Robert Weiss, Bjorn Claeson, Cynthia Phinney, Elizabeth Wyman, Vanessa Santarelli, Wade Merrit (on behalf of Richard Coyle), Carla Dickstein

**Members absent:** Mary Ellen Johnston, Barbara Van Burgel, Jim Dusch, Richard Coyle

**Staff present:** Curtis Bentley, Legislative Analyst and Nicole Dube, Legislative Analyst

### **I. Introductions**

Sen. Rotundo convened the Commission meeting and asked Commission members to introduce themselves and make introductory remarks.

### **II. Briefing from Representative of Maine's Congressional Delegation**

- Erik Heilman (Senator Snowe)
- Jane Alonso (Senator Collins)
- Kimberly Thompson (Representative Michaud)
- Todd Stein (Representative Allen)

Congressional delegation staff met with the Commission to brief the Commission on the current status of CAFTA in Congress and to discuss ways to establish a continued dialog that would allow the Commission to provide input on trade issues. Congressional delegation staff made introductory statements on behalf of their delegation members. Staff then briefed the Commission on the process of CAFTA in Congress, indicating that CAFTA is currently signed and is now in the process of being ratified. CAFTA will go through committee hearings in the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee as early as late March and final passage may be completed sometime this spring. However staff noted that the timing of final passage is dependent upon administration priorities and whether enough votes have been secured.

Congressional delegation staff encouraged input from the Commission regarding CAFTA and other trade issues, noting that while there is no mechanism to amend the CAFTA at this stage, input would help to raise questions during the hearing process. The Commission encouraged the Congressional Delegation to ensure mechanisms are established to inform the public of future trade agreements before they are signed so that the public has the opportunity to provide input.

#### Action Items:

- Commission members requested Congressional staff to provide 1) Summary of USTR negotiation and consultative processes, 2) List of USTR advisory committees, including membership roster and how appointments are made, 3) Written copies of introductory statements;
- Commission members directed staff to provide the Congressional delegation with a copy of the CTPC authorizing legislation and a summary of the Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> public hearing testimony;
- Commission members directed staff to inform the Congressional delegation of future CTPC meetings;
- Commission members requested that the Congressional delegation extend an invitation to USTR to attend the next CTPC meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup>; Sen. Raye agreed to follow up with Congressional Delegation staff;
- Commission members agreed to invite Peter Collins, former USTR staff, to the March 25<sup>th</sup> CTPC meeting; Liz Wyman agreed to check his availability

#### **III. Discussion of Panamanian and Andean Trade Agreements**

Alan Stearns, Senior Policy Advisor to Governor Baldacci, briefed the Commission on the recent USTR request for gubernatorial action on state government procurement components of trade agreements being negotiated with Panama and Andean countries. Mr. Stearns informed the Commission that USTR request had been sent to all 50 states and that he expected the Governor to issue a response within approximately 6 months. Mr. Stearns also indicated that he had not yet heard back from USTR regarding his requests for additional information. The Commission discussed ways to provide input to the Governor and agreed to discuss the Panamanian and Andean Trade Agreement request at the next meeting and asked members to analyze the request from their own industry perspectives.

**IV. Discussion of Public Hearing in Bangor** The Commission discussed the February 3<sup>rd</sup> public hearing at the Husson Business College in Bangor. Commission members felt the hearing was a success, noting the high turnout and broad representation of experiences and knowledge of those who testified. Commission members also noted the overwhelmingly negative testimony that was received and discussed ways to ensure that the Commission receives balanced public testimony that reflects both positive and negative experiences regarding the impact of trade agreements on Maine's economy, businesses and citizens.

The Commission also discussed the April 15-16 National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)/National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) meeting in Washington DC that will discuss the impact of international trade agreements on states. The Commission felt it would be beneficial for some Commission members to attend in order to develop a dialogue with other states and explore the possibility of collaborative efforts. Commission members Rep. Patrick, Rep. Hutton, Liz Wyman and Jim Wilfong expressed interest in attending and agreed to explore opportunities for Commission members to participate.

#### Action Items:

- The Commission agreed to hold its second public hearing on April 5<sup>th</sup> from 7-9 PM in Portland. Commission member, Jim Wilfong agreed to contact the University of Southern Maine and Southern Maine Community College about hosting the public hearing.
- Commission members agreed to email comments and questions regarding CAFTA to staff by March 21<sup>st</sup>; Staff agreed to compile the comments and questions into a letter to send to the Congressional delegation
- The Commission passed a motion proposed by Dr. Weiss that the Commission chairs contact representatives from California and Washington to determine if representatives from these states would be attending the April 15<sup>th</sup> NCSL/NAAG meeting and to explore how Commission members can participate in the meeting.
- Commission agreed to distribute press release and letters to a variety of media outlets, including but not limited to Brunswick Times Record, Lewiston Sun Journal, Biddeford, Portland Press Herald, Rumsford Times, and the Kennebec Journal; Rep Hutton requested to write an editorial for Brunswick Times
- The Commission directed staff write a press release providing notice of the Portland meeting and highlighting the work of the Commission; Commission members suggested that the chairs and other members write letters to the editor to publicize the Portland public meeting and the work of the Commission.

#### **VI. Sub-committee Work Session**

The Commission broke into its three subcommittees (healthcare, environment/natural resources and labor/economic development) to continue to develop and implement work plans and generate CAFTA questions for a Commission letter to the USTR. The full Commission then reconvened and each subcommittee briefed the Commission on its work.

#### **VII. Adjournment**

The Commission meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

# **Citizen Trade Policy Commission**

**April, 22, 2005**

State House, Room 126, Augusta

## **Meeting Summary**

**Members present:** Sen. Margaret Rotundo (co-chair), Rep. Deborah Hutton, Matt Schlobohm, Paul Volckhausen, Dr. Robert Weiss, Bjorn Claeson, Mark Haggerty, Cynthia Phinney, Mary Ellen Johnston, Wade Merrit (on behalf of Richard Coyle)

**Members absent:** Sen. Raye, Sen. Bryant, Rep. Patrick, Rep. Carr, Barbara Van Burgel, James Wilfong, Elizabeth Wyman, Jim Dusch, Richard Coyle, Vanessa Santarelli

**Staff present:** Curtis Bentley, Legislative Analyst

### **I. Introductions**

Sen. Rotundo convened the Commission meeting and asked Commission members to introduce themselves.

### **II. Briefing from Lisa Reinhalter**

Lisa Reinhalter presented her preliminary findings from her telephone interviews with Commission members regarding the purpose, mission and challenges of the Commission. Ms. Reinhalter informed the Commission that these findings will be presented in her research paper that she will provide to the Commission in May. Her preliminary findings are attached.

### **III. Discussion of Annual Report and Assessment**

**Report:** The Commission agreed to develop the report and that it should detail what the Commission has done over the past year and include public hearing notes and meeting minutes.

**Assessment:** The Commission established an "assessment subcommittee" to work with the three other subcommittees to determine the form and subject matter of the assessment. The assessment subcommittee was directed to consider the input provided by the other three subcommittees and to give its recommendations for the assessment to the Commission at the May 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. The assessment subcommittee includes Cynthia Phinney, Bjorn Claeson and Dr. Wiess. The Commission agreed to use those recommendations to develop a package of information and ideas to be used by an outside organization such as the Forum on Trade and Democracy to do a deeper assessment based on the direction and information provided by the Commission. The Commission directed staff to find out whether or not contracting with an outside source for the assessment would be require that it go through a bidding process.

### **IV. Scheduling the Next Meeting and Public Hearing.**



The Commission will meet on May 27<sup>th</sup> in Augusta and will set the date for its next public hearing at that meeting. The Commission requested that a discussion of how the Commission can do a better job of reaching out to all sides of the issues surrounding trade agreements including educational efforts, be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

**Guests.** The Commission was informed by Wade Merrit that Christina Sevilla from the Office of the United States Trade Representative has verbally agreed to attend a meeting of the Commission. Mr. Merrit will check her availability for the May 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. If she is unavailable the Commission would like to have Peter Collins attend the next meeting. The Commission agreed to invite guests that have expertise in economics and that can provide an economic overview of Maine's economy and how trade agreements and other factors have shaped that economy. It was also agreed to invite someone with expertise in labor matters that can provide information about how Maine's labor force and how it has been affected by trade agreements and other factors over the years. Members cited a number of people who are potential guests and staff was directed to work with Commission members to make necessary arrangements.

#### **VI. NCSL Meeting Report Back and IGPAC Membership.**

Rep. Hutton provided the Commission with a brief overview of the National Conference of State Legislatures meeting held in April 2005 in Washington D.C. regarding states and international trade agreements. Among other things, Rep. Hutton reported that there was extreme concern among all states regarding trade agreements and in particular state sovereignty issues. Rep. Hutton also informed that Commission that it might be possible to get a representative from the northeast on IGPAC and that Elizabeth Wyman is a potential candidate, however, the process for placing someone on IGPAC is unclear at this time. The Commission unanimously voted to support Elizabeth Wyman's induction into IGPAC. Rep. Hutton provided the Commission with documents from the meeting and Wade Merrit provided the remarks of Ambassador Peter Allgeier, both are attached.

#### **VII. GAO Study.**

The Commission voted unanimously to have Rep. Hutton and Wade Merit draft language to ask Sen. Snowe to request the GAO to study the relationship between the USTR and the states. Once the initial language is drafted they will circulate it to members by email for comment. If there consent about sending the letter it will be sent out directly however, if there is dissent among members, it will held and discussed at the Commission's next meeting. Mr. Merrit stated that the USTR has been asked to convene a meeting of SPOCs to talk about issues regarding communications between the USTR and the states. Wade Merrit stated that SPOCs across the nation are frustrated with the current process.



### **VIII. Legislation.**

The legislative subcommittee presented its recommendations to the Commission and the Commission voted unanimously to:

1. Have staff research any potential legal problems that may need to be addressed before adopting the recommended legislation;
2. Directed the legislative subcommittee to meet with Allen Sterns to ensure the Governor has no concerns regarding the recommended legislation; and
3. If the Governor has no concerns, directed staff to draft language to carryout the recommendations.

The subcommittee's recommendations are attached.

### **IX. CAFTA Statement.**

The Commission voted unanimously to put together a subcommittee to draft a letter to the Governor, USTR and Maine's Congressional Delegation that strongly states the Commission's support of international trade but based on the following concerns and two public hearings the Commission cannot support CAFTA. Those concerns among other are:

1. Maine's sovereignty;
2. Health issues in Maine and abroad;
3. Environmental impacts;
4. Effectiveness of treaties;
5. CAFTA not beneficial to many small businesses;
6. Intellectual property issues;
7. The process used to negotiate CAFTA;
8. Other similar trade agreements' unintended consequences; and
9. CAFTA is not a fair international trade agreement.

The Commission directed the subcommittee (Matt Schlobohm, Mary Ellen Johnston and Bjorn Claeson) to draft a letter that encompasses in more detail the sentiments and concerns listed above and send it to members via email. If there is agreement on its contents it should be sent out ASAP but if there is dissent the letter will be held until it can be discussed at the next meeting.

### **X. Funding Sources.**

The Commission agreed that it can't rely on General Fund money and needs to look for outside funding sources. The Commission discussed possible sources of funding such as The Noyce Foundation, Maine Initiatives and the Hood Foundation. The Commission discussed needs that would require additional funding such as staffing, additional meetings, travel etc. There was discussion about developing a plan with a long-term vision that would identify funding needed to

meet that vision. Sen. Rotundo suggested members individually initiate conversation with potential funding sources and Rep. Hutton suggested that when Sen. Rotundo and Rep. Patrick meet with the Forum on Democracy and Trade in May they discuss possible funding sources. Matt Schlobohm suggested the Commission draft a letter of inquiry for funding sources. The Commission directed staff to check for any potential legal problems with nonprofits making grants to governmental entities.

#### **XI. Adjournment.**

The Commission adjourned its meeting at approximately 2:00PM without convening subcommittees.

# **Citizen Trade Policy Commission**

**Friday, May 27, 2005**

State House, Room 126, Augusta

## **Meeting Summary**

**Members present:** Rep. John Patrick (co-chair), Sen. Kevin Raye, Rep. Deborah Hutton, Matt Schlobohm, Paul Volckhausen, Bjorn Claeson, Mark Haggerty, Cynthia Phinney, Richard Coyle, Elizabeth Wyman, Vanessa Santarelli, Carla Dickstein, Peter Connell

**Members absent:** Sen. Margaret Rotundo (co-chair), Sen. Bruce Bryant, Rep. Roderick Carr, Barbara Van Burgel, Dr. Robert Weiss, Mary Ellen Johnston, James Wilfong, Jim Dusch

**Staff present:** Nicole Dube, Legislative Analyst

### **I. Introductions**

Rep. Patrick convened the Commission meeting and asked Commission members to introduce themselves.

### **II. Briefing: Maine's Economy and the Impact of Trade Agreements**

Dr. Charles Lawton, Senior Economist, Planning Decisions, Inc. provided the Commission with a general overview of Maine's economy, citing three main trends: the income-earnings paradox, the natural resources glut, and the housing boom. Dr. Lawton also discussed the impact of trade agreements on Maine's economy. (A copy of Dr. Lawton's presentation is attached)

### **III. Discussion of Commission's Annual Report and Assessment Requirements**

Rep. Patrick briefed the Commission on the Forum on Democracy and Trade Leadership Meeting on International Trade and the States, held on April 29<sup>th</sup> – May 1<sup>st</sup> in Washington DC. The meeting provided a forum for states to convene to discuss critical trade issues impacting states as well as develop and cultivate collaborative efforts. Rep. Patrick and Sen Rotundo attended the meeting on behalf of the Commission.

The Commission also received a report back from the Assessment Subcommittee indicating that they are in the process of working with the three other subcommittees (Healthcare Subcommittee, Business, Labor and Economic Development Subcommittee and Environment and Natural Resources Subcommittee) to determine the form and subject matter of the assessment. The Commission directed staff to provide a list of other state trade commissions as well as an example of an assessment conducted by another state.

#### **IV. Scheduling the Next Public Hearing**

The Commission decided to hold its next public hearing in October at a location in Aroostook County. The Commission directed staff to email potential dates for the public hearing to the Commission. The Commission also discussed how it can do a better job of reaching out to all sides of the issues surrounding trade agreements so that they receive comprehensive information at its future public hearings. Potential strategies identified included utilizing the Aroostook County legislative delegation to inform constituents of the public hearing and increasing advertising to encourage participation from those in the business community and those in support of trade agreements. The Commission also discussed potentially inviting leaders from the metal, forest products and exporter industries to a future meeting.

#### **V. Discussion of the June 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

The Commission agreed to gather individual and subcommittee data requests and questions by June 10<sup>th</sup> to send to Christina Sevilla from the Office of the United States Trade Representative in advance of her briefing to the Commission scheduled for June 24<sup>th</sup>.

#### **VI. Commission Response to CAFTA**

Commission member, Bjorn Claeson provided the Commission with a draft statement in opposition to DR-CAFTA for consideration by the Commission. The Commission members present voted to unanimously adopt an amended version of the statement, pending review of the final language. Bjorn Claeson agreed to email the final revised statement to the Commission no later than Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> for final approval. The Commission noted that DR-CAFTA is scheduled for a mock mark up in the Senate Finance Committee on June 14<sup>th</sup> after which it will be considered by the House Ways and Means Committee. Given the short time frame in which DR-CAFTA is being considered in Congress, the Commission agreed to conduct immediate media work around the release of its statement. The Commission directed staff to:

- Draft a press release
- Schedule a press conference at the Statehouse for the week of June 6<sup>th</sup>
- Send a copy of the statement to newspaper editorial boards along with an offer from the Commission Chairs to meet with them to discuss the statement
- Email the statement to interested parties
- Contact Congressional Delegation staff to determine if they are available to meet with the Commission on June 17<sup>th</sup> to follow up on DR-CAFTA.

#### **VII. Introduction of Legislation this Session**

The Commission received an update from the legislation subcommittee indicating that they were unable to complete legislation in time to be considered this legislative session and will continue

to work on developing legislation for possible consideration during the Second Session of the 122<sup>nd</sup> Legislature.

### **VIII. USTR State Request on GATS**

The Commission reviewed a draft letter in response to a May 3<sup>rd</sup> USTR memo to the State Points of Contact (SPOCs) and the Intergovernmental Policy Advisory Committee (IGPAC) asking for comments regarding ongoing negotiations at the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). The draft response from the Commission asked that USTR carve out Maine state and local government actions from the new GATS offer scheduled to be tabled by May 31<sup>st</sup> until the Commission has had an opportunity to adequately review and analyze the language of the proposed commitment. The Commission members present voted unanimously to adopt the letter with minor revisions and send it immediately to USTR.

### **IX. Sub-committee Work Session**

The Commission broke into its three subcommittees (healthcare, environment/natural resources and labor/economic development) to continue to work on the Commission's annual assessment. The full Commission then reconvened and each subcommittee briefed the Commission on its work.

### **X. Adjournment.**

The Commission adjourned its meeting at approximately 3:00PM

# **Citizen Trade Policy Commission**

**Friday, June 25, 2005**

State House, Room 126, Augusta

## **Meeting Summary**

**Members present:** Rep. John Patrick (co-chair), Sen. Bruce Bryant, Rep. Roderick Carr, Rep. Deborah Hutton, Matt Schlobohm, Bjorn Claeson, Jim Dusch, Cynthia Phinney, Richard Coyle, Mary Ellen Johnston, Elizabeth Wyman, Vanessa Santarelli, Carla Dickstein, Peter Connell, Dr. Robert Weiss.

**Members absent:** Sen. Margaret Rotundo (co-chair), Sen. Kevin Raye, Paul Volckhausen, Barbara Van Burgel, Mark Haggerty, James Wilfong.

**Staff present:** Nicole Dube, Legislative Analyst

### **I. Introductions**

Rep. Patrick convened the Commission meeting and asked Commission members to introduce themselves.

### **II. Commission Work Session**

#### **Staffing**

The Commission discussed its staffing needs and voted unanimously to direct the Chairs, in consultation with staff, to develop a written policy establishing procedures and guidelines for the utilization of Commission staff during the legislative session.

#### **Annual Report and Assessment Requirements**

The Commission received a report back from the Assessment Subcommittee indicating that they are still in the process of working with the three other subcommittees (Healthcare Subcommittee, Business, Labor and Economic Development Subcommittee and Environment and Natural Resources Subcommittee) to develop the form and subject matter of the annual assessment. The subcommittees agreed to send draft assessments to staff before the next Commission meeting and the Commission directed staff to provide a draft report and assessment for the Commission to review at its next meeting. The Commission also agreed to ask the Forum on Democracy and Trade to review the draft subcommittee assessments in order to provide technical assistance.

#### **USTR State Request on GATS**

The Commission discussed its May 27<sup>th</sup> letter to USTR in response to a May 3<sup>rd</sup> USTR memo to the State Points of Contact (SPOCs) and the Intergovernmental Policy Advisory Committee (IGPAC) asking for comments regarding ongoing negotiations at the World Trade Organization



(WTO) on the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). The response from the Commission asked that USTR carve out Maine state and local government actions from the new GATS offer until the Commission has had an opportunity to adequately review and analyze the language of the proposed commitment. The Commission did not receive a response from USTR. The Commission members present voted unanimously to send a letter to the Congressional delegation asking for assistance obtaining a response from USTR in order to strengthen and clarify the system for communicating with USTR in future. Commission member Liz Wyman agreed to draft the letter and staff agreed to follow up with the Congressional delegation.

#### Scheduling the Next Commission Meeting

The Commission agreed to hold its next meeting on July 22<sup>nd</sup> in order to review and vote on its annual report and assessment and directed staff to confirm that a quorum will be present. The Commission decided not to meet in August due to its inability to secure a quorum. The Commission also agreed to extend another invitation to USTR to attend its September meeting. Commission member Richard Coyle agreed to check USTR's availability in September.

#### III. Sub-committee Work Session

The Commission broke into its three subcommittees (healthcare, environment/natural resources and labor/economic development) to continue to work on the Commission's annual assessment. The full Commission then reconvened and each subcommittee briefed the Commission on its work.

#### IV. Adjournment.

The Commission adjourned its meeting at approximately 3:00PM